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Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 21 November 2012 from the Permanent Representatives of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Missions of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to the United Nations present their compliments to the Secretary-General and have the honour to inform him that Iranian military vessels have carried out repeated acts of aggression and trespass into the waters of the submerged zone adjacent to the divided zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia (the submerged divided zone), over which those two States have exclusive sovereign rights. Most recently, three armed speed boats flying the Iranian flag crossed into the submerged Kuwaiti-Saudi zone adjacent to the divided zone at 7.30 a.m. on Friday, 24 August 2012. They stopped near drilling rig ID30 for several minutes before proceeding towards the vessel assisting the rig. Such actions could lead to confrontations endangering peace and security in the region.

It is well known that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have exclusive sovereign rights to explore and exploit hydrocarbon resources in the Al-Durra field and the submerged divided zone.

The Governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have on several occasions strongly protested and deplored those repeated acts of aggression and trespass. They demand that the Islamic Republic of Iran put an end to those actions in order to preserve their interests, respect their rights and maintain security and stability in the region.

The Governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have asked the Islamic Republic of Iran for negotiations to delimit the maritime boundaries between the submerged divided zone and the waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran in accordance with international law. However, despite repeated appeals, the Governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have yet to receive a response.

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The Permanent Missions of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia request that the Secretary-General circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 75 (a).

(*Signed*) Mansour Ayyad SH A **Alotaibi**
Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Mr. Abdallah Yahya A. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations